

Notes taken from Ronnies Sermon on Ephesians 1:1-4

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

The book of Ephesians deals with the Body of Christ and how God has blessed us.

Vs. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Blessed means to speak praise of someone.
- It is actually where we get the word Eulogy from for a funeral, speak well of them.
- So even though Paul's current situation is not good from an earthly standpoint, since he is currently in prison, he is still praising God for who He is.

Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

- Everything that God for us has been done in Christ and through Christ.
  - 1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
    - There may be people who would apply this to people around you but still consider yourself second class.
    - You may think that God loves you in a general way but not in a personal way.

- When John says us, when he says we should be called His children, he is talking about you. If you are a believer in Christ you are His child and you are a partaker of this heavenly blessing.
- So let's look at some of those blessings.

Vs. 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

- God is the one in the pro-active here.
  - He chose
  - He predestined
  - Everything Starts with God and everything ends with God.
    - He is the author and the finisher of our salvation
    - We are the objects of God's blessing and grace.
- The word Chose in the Greek means that God chose by himself and for himself according to His purpose, His Council, and His will.
  - God's Choice completely independent of us.
  - Just as the days of Noah when the thought of man was continually evil, but Noah found Grace in the eyes of the Lord.
    - Grace is un-merited it was given to Noah.
  - Consider Abraham

- He was a pagan and God comes and says come follow me.
  - So Abraham was going along worshiping false god's and the true God chose him and comes and makes this covenant with him.
- Then you consider Jacob and Esau both of them born from Isaac, but God chose Jacob the younger brother.
- Then getting to the New Testament and Jesus comes along and CHOOSES His disciples. He said you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.
  - These were not elite men.
  - These were fishermen and tax collectors. The low class in society.
    - But Jesus said I choose you.
    - Just like now, Christian, He has looked at you and said I choose you.
- So when Paul says blessed be God...why do we bless God?
  - Because God has blessed us.
    - He chose you, out of many he put His affection on you.
  - Consider Paul
    - Paul was looking for Jesus, he was seeking out Christ's people so that He could wipe the name of Christ off the earth.
    - But there was a divine appointment with the King of all the universe.
      - God met him in the road and struck him blind.

- Who chose who there?
- So this morning, in the midst of great uncertainty, God has called you by name.
  - This we can take great comfort in.
  - Read Romans 8:28-29
    - Everything that has happened and is happening is for your good, your salvation, and for God's Glory.
    - He set His affection on you before the foundation of the world, and He saved you in time.
- Read Jeremiah 1:4-5
- Read Galatians 1:15-16
  - Before we were born, God chose us. Before we could do right or wrong, God chose us.
    - Then there was a day in time when He broke through your hard heart and made Himself known to you.
    - This should cause us to say Blessed Be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The purpose of why we were chosen

“that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,”

- Positionally, every Christian is Holy and Spotless.
  - Why? Because Christ took every sin to the cross.
  - He stood before the Father as a guilty sinner even though He was sinless. He bore all of our sins and God the Father poured out His wrath on Jesus in our Place.
    - Blessed be God

- Then He took the perfect righteousness of Christ and gave it to us.
  - We have been set apart because we have been chosen as God's own family.
    - When you look at yourself, you will have no confidence in your salvation.
    - But when you look at Christ, you can be completely confident. Because HE DOES NOT FAIL.
- So the result of God choosing us is that we would be holy and blameless, that is achieved. The result is also that we would join with Paul in singing the praises of God.
  - We should stand today and say Blessed is God.
    - Yes there is sickness and pestilence all around us.
    - Yes there is unbelievable instability with the economy.
    - People are losing their jobs.
    - People are unable to visit their parents in nursing homes and hospitals
    - People are saying it is going to last longer than they thought. It might even get worse.
      - However, Blessed is God and blessed are you if you belong to Him.
      - No matter how bad it gets on this earth, it is only temporary, you belong to the King.